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March 4, 2004

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Mr. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW – Lobby Level  
Washington, D.C. 20036

***Re: Notice of Written Ex Parte – WC Docket No. 03-228, Section 272(b)(1)'s "Operate Independently" Requirement for Section 272 Affiliates***

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 3, 2004, James C. Smith, Senior Vice President - FCC, and the undersigned, representing SBC, met with Commissioner Kevin J. Martin and Daniel Gonzalez, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Martin, to discuss positions that SBC previously presented in earlier filings in the above referenced proceeding.

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically with the Commission.

Sincerely,

**/s/ Gary L. Phillips**

cc (via electronic mail) :

Kevin J. Martin  
Daniel Gonzalez